

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 02429 301311Z

46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-03

DRC-01 /118 W

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R 301210Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SESTATE WASHDC 7039
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 2429

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CZ, HU, YO, CH, UR, XH

SUBJECT: COMINFORMISTS AND EUROPEAN CP GATHERING

1. OUR EAST EUROPEAN CONTACTS HAVE BEEN TALKING A GREAT DEAL ABOUT THE COMINFORMIST TRIALS IN YUGOSLAVIA, BUT BOTH CZECHOSLOVAKS AND YUGOSLAVS SEEM DETERMINED TO ASSURE EVERYONE THAT BELGRADE-PRAGUE RELATIONS (AS WELL AS BELGRADE-MOSCOW RELATIONS) WILL NOT SUFFER MAJOR PRESENT DAMAGE. CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS REMAINED MUTE ON THE AFFAIR UNTIL SOVIET PRESS SPOKE UP (MOSCOW 14610), AND RUDE PRAVO THEN REPRINTED TASS STATEMENT.

2. THE YUGOSLAVS HERE ARE TALKING FREELY ABOUT THE COMINFORMIST MATTER, BUT THEY ARE EMPHASIZING THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS REMAIN NORMAL. AT RECEPTION FOR VISITING SOVIET
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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 02429 301311Z

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION HEADED BY SHCHERBITSKIY, YUGOSLAV

AMBASSADOR WAS STRESSING QUOTATION THAT ONE MUST NEITHER OVER-ESTIMATE NOR UNDERESTIMATE IMPORTANCE OF EVENTS; AND HE HELD LONG AND APPARENTLY FRIENDLY CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR. YUGOSLAV DCM GAVE EMBOFF DETAILED FILL-IN ON COMINFORMIST TRIALS, BUT STRESSED THAT MODERATION WAS THE ORDER OF THE DAY, AND TALKED ABOUT ON-GOING BILATERAL RELATIONS. TMRESE WERE IN THE NEWS BECAUSE LENART (HEAD OF SLOVAK PARTY) RECEIVED YUGOSLAV CONGEN, AND CZECHOSLOVAK DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ZAHRADNIK VISITED BELGRADE STARTING SEPTEMBER 24 FOR ECONOMIC TALKS. YUGOSLAV DCM SAID THERE WERE TRADE PROBLEMS HAVING NOTHING TO DO WITH POLITICS, AND YUGOSLAVS WANTED MORE FAVORABLE BALANCE AND ALSO CONSIDERATION OF JOINT OPERATIONS. CZECHOSLOVAK MFA OFFICIAL ALSO TOLD EMBOFF THERE WERE LEGITIMATE TRADE PROBLEMS, AND THAT CZECH-YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC RELATIONS WERE NOT NEARLY SO GOOD AS, FOR EXAMPLE, CZECH-RUMANIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

3. ON EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY GATHERING IN WARSAW, MOST OF OUR SOURCES SAY IT WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY COMINFORMIST MATTER, BUT SOME ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IT HAD TO BE POSTPONED FOR REASONS STILL UNCLEAR TO US FROM SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER. CZECHOSLOVAKS OF COURSE SAY IT IS A FINE IDEA AND THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN FOR IT. YUGOSLAV DCM SAID BELGRADE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT CRITICISM OF OTHER PARTIES, AND WAS NOT ENCOURAGED BY RECENT ATTACKS ON PEKING IN CZECH AND (ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF ITS CO-SPONSORSHIP) POLISH PRESS. HE SAID YUGOSLAVS HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO ATTEND, BUT RUMANIAN DCM SAID YUGOSLAVS TOLD HIM THEY WOULD ATTEND. SOURCES AGREE THAT YUGOSLAV POSITION IS: (A) NO ATTACKS ON OTHER PARTIES; (B) NO DIRECT TIE WITH COMMUNIST PART INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS OF THE PAST.

4. RUMANIAN DKM'S COMMENT ON THE COMINFORMIST MATTER, WHICH SEEMED TO US A PITHY SUMMING-UP, WAS THE PRESENT RELATIONS ALL AROUND WOULD CONTINUE NORMAL, BUT THAT THE PRINCIPLE AT STAKE FOR HAE FUTURE WAS OF GREAT IMPORATNCE, AND TO MOST PEOPLE THAN JUST YUGOSLAVS.
PERRY

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